

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 63

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 119

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 63—Relative to Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 14, 1998.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 63, Solis. Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of October 1998 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, Home should be a place of warmth, unconditional love, tranquility, and security; however, for many Americans, home is tainted with violence and fear; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence is more than the occasional family dispute; and

WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, domestic violence is the single largest cause of injury to American women, affecting 6,000,000 women of all racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, According to data published by the California Department of Justice in 1996, 624 incidents of domestic violence were reported, on average, every day in California. A 1994 survey report by the United States Department of Justice states that in the United States a woman is battered every 15 seconds.

WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of Labor, 1,000,000 people are assaulted and injured every year as a result of workplace violence, 1,000 people are killed every year due to workplace violence, and 20 percent of battered women lose their jobs due to harassment at work by abusive husbands or boyfriends; and

WHEREAS, More than one-half of the number of women in need of shelter from an abusive environment may be turned away from a shelter due to lack of space; and

WHEREAS, Women are not the only targets of domestic violence; young children, elderly persons, and men are also victims in their own homes; and

WHEREAS, Emotional scars are often permanent; and

WHEREAS, A coalition of organizations has emerged to confront this crisis directly. Law enforcement agencies, domestic violence hotlines, battered women and children's shelters, health care providers, churches, and the volunteers that serve those entities are helping the effort to end domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, It is important to recognize the compassion and dedication of the individuals involved in that effort, applaud their commitment, and increase public understanding of this significant problem; and

WHEREAS, The first Day of Unity was celebrated in October 1981 and was sponsored by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence for the purpose of uniting battered women's advocates across the nation in an effort to end domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, That one day has grown into a month of activities at all levels of government, aimed at creating awareness about the problem and presenting solutions; and

WHEREAS, The first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was proclaimed in October 1987; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the month of October 1998, as Domestic Violence Awareness Month; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Governor of the State of California, the Director of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

